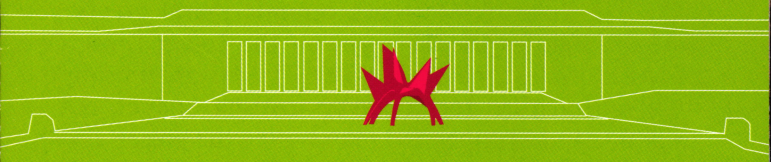
Greatest Hits, I



Normally we'd urge you to see everything in our fabulous collection, but you've got things to do, places to be. Here is a selection of some of TMA's most famous, best-loved, not-to-be-missed masterworks: our "greatest hits."

My Guide

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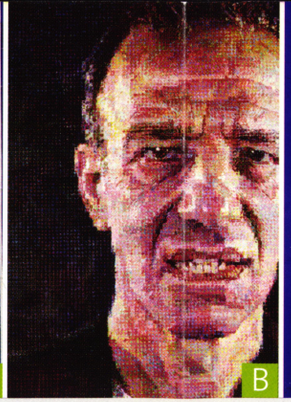
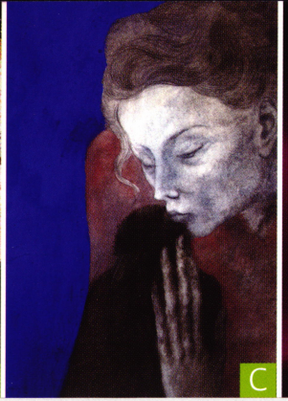
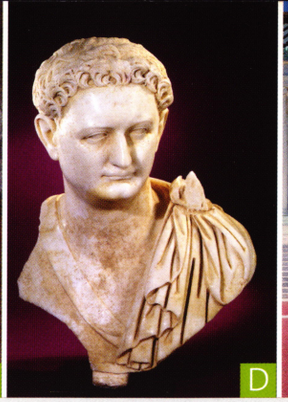
FOR J. TOWN







A :: Main Staircase Henri Matisse, *Apollo,* 1953

Big, bold, colorful, Matisse's ceramic mural greets you when you enter the Museum on the Lower Level. One of Matisse's last major works, it was designed using the artist's signature technique of cutting shapes out of brightly painted paper and rearranging the pieces until he was satisfied with the result (he called it "drawing with scissors"). He then supervised each step in the translation from paper to ceramic tiles.

B :: Gallery 1 Chuck Close, *Alex,* 1987

Part of our collection since the year it was painted, Chuck Close's monumental portrait of fellow painter Alex Katz is a "don't miss" (in fact, it's kind of hard to miss even if you wanted to). Though *Alex* can be viewed from a distance, we recommend walking right up to it to see Close's trademark grid technique, which he used to translate the image square by square from a 20 x 24-inch Polaroid picture to an eight-foot tall oil painting.

C :: Gallery 3

Pablo Picasso, *Woman with a Crow,* 1904

A work transitioning from Picasso's Blue Period to his Rose Period, this moody portrait of a Parisian woman and her pet is an important pre-Cubist work by the most famous artist of the 20th century. Picasso derived the angular, elongated forms of this period of his art from the paintings of his great Spanish artistic forebear El Greco (see a masterpiece by El Greco in Gallery 22).

D :: Classic Court (Gallery 2) Ancient Roman, *Emperor Domitian,* about A.D. 90

Portraits of Roman emperors are always fascinating—particularly when the emperor had a colorful reputation. Domitian, who preferred to be addressed as "Master and God," was particularly nasty. From executing political enemies to walling up a Vestal Virgin alive in an underground cell for alleged immoral behavior, Domitian wasn't known for his mercy. The sculptor has subtly captured the emperor's vanity and cruelty in this marble bust

E :: Sculpture Garden

Alexander Calder, *Stegosaurus,* 1972–73

Step out the front doors from Libbey Court to see Calder's playful homage to the spiky dinosaur stegosaurus. Painted bright "Calder red," this welded steel sculpture, which was acquired in 2000 in honor of the Museum's centennial, has become something of a Toledo landmark.

F :: The Great Gallery (Gallery 36)

Peter Paul Rubens, *The Crowning of St. Catherine,* 1631 (1633?)

Sumptuous. A feast for the eyes. Poetry in paint. 17th-century Flemish master Peter Paul Rubens' luscious painting style is on magnificent display in this masterwork painted for a church altar in Malines (Mechlen), modern-day Belgium. Let your eye follow the path of his paintbrush—and even possibly his fingertips!—in the highlights of the kneeling St. Catherine's dress.

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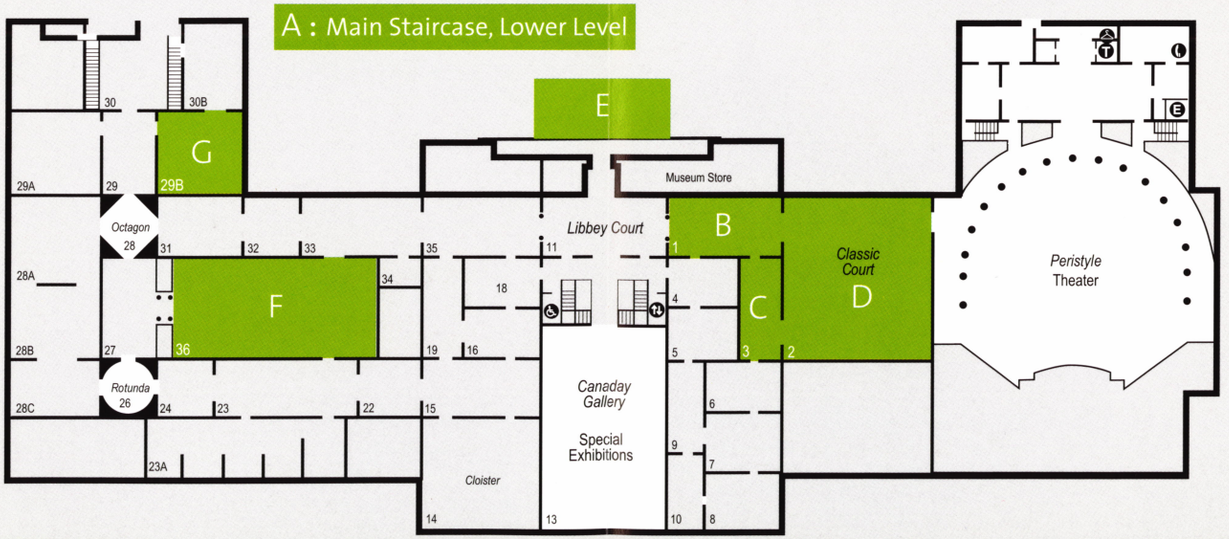
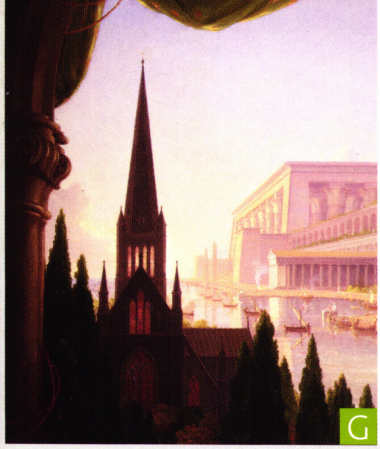




G :: Gallery 29B

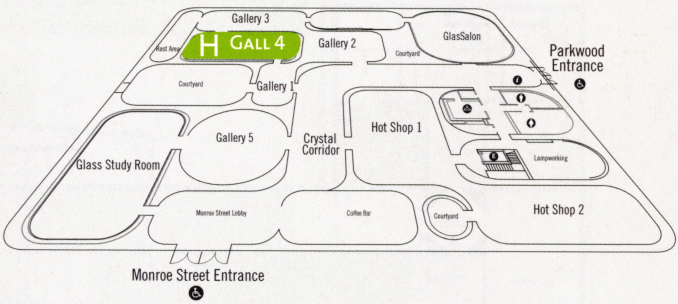
Thomas Cole, *The Architect's Dream*, 1840

No trip to Toledo is complete without visiting Thomas Cole's famous reverie on great architectural styles of the past. Painted for a famous architect who ultimately rejected the picture (read the whole story on the gallery card), Cole himself considered *The Architect's Dream* "one of the best I have ever painted"—and who are we to argue?

H :: Glass Pavilion, Gallery 4

Libbey Glass Company, *Punch Bowl, Stand and Cups*, 1903–04

Some of TMA's most famous works of art reside in the Glass Pavilion across Monroe Street. If you don't have a lot of time to explore this world-renowned building, head straight for the Toledo-made Libbey cut-glass punch bowl, once the largest piece of cut glass in the world. Prepare to be dazzled.



Enjoy your tour? Visit www.toledomuseum.org for more *TMA MyGuides*, upcoming events and programs, classes, and membership information.

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Toledo Museum of Art